

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 10822 111712Z

51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 105754

O 111635Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0973

AMCONGEN ASMARA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 10822

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

REF: ADDIS 10760

1. EMBASSY ASSUMES DEPT. HAS THROUGH FBIS AND PRESS TICKERS
VITRIOLIC ATTACK CARRIED BY RADIO ETHIOPIA AT 1400 HOURS LOCAL
SEPT. 11 UPON EMPEROR AND HIGH-LIVING DO-NOTHING IMPERIAL FAMILY.
ATTACK CENTERS ON MONARCH'S ALLGED REFUSAL, REPEAT REFUSAL, RE-
PATRIATE "BILLIONS" SECRETED BY HIM IN FOREIGN BANKS. FILMS ON
DROUGHT AND DISSOLUTE LIVES OF MEMBERS IMPERIAL FAMILY PROMISED FOR
TONIGHT ON TV.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO HAVE SEEN TEXT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1330
HOURS LOCAL RADIO ETHIOPIA NEWSCAST IN WHICH THE ABUN QUOTED IN
SEPT. 10 PRESS CONFERENCE AS APPROVING MILITARY MOVEMENT AND
INFERRING CHURCH ALIGNING ITSELF ON ETHIOPIA FIRST POSTURE. USIS
LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO PRESENT AT TEWOFILOS PRES CONFERENCE AND TAPED
IT, STATES ABUN STOPPED WELL SHORT OF TENOR STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED
TO HIM IN ENGLISH -- BUT NOT REPEAT NOT IN AMHARIC -- NEWSCAST.

3. AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 HOURS LOCAL, MILITARY SEEN ENTERING
IMPERIAL FAMILY COMPOUNDS ON EITHER SIDE OF EMBASSY. PRINCESSES
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 10822 111712Z

TENAGNE WORQ AND SAWA SEEN THEREAFTER LEAVING COMPOUND SEPARATE-

LY WITH ESCORT FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION, LATTER PRINCESS REPORTEDLY EXHIBITING EVERY SIGN OF DEPARTURE UNDER DURESS. LOCAL EMPLOYEES REPORT UNSPECIFIED PRINCES ALSO REMOVED UNDER ESCORT. SOME SHOTS SAID HAVE BEEN FIRED IN AIR DURING THESE PROCEEDINGS, APPARENTLY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT.

4. BEGIN NOFORN: IMPERIAL STANDARD WAS HAULED DOWN AT "NATIONAL PALACE" AT UNUSUAL 1630 HOURS LOCAL SEPT. 10, WELL BEFORE SUNDOWN. NOTHING YET SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT EMPEROR'S STATUS AND WHEREABOUTS. WE CURRENTLY BELIEVE HAILE SELASSIE IS STILL IN ADDIS AND HEAR FROM WELL PLACED SOURCES BUT HAVE YET TO CONFIRM THAT HE COMPELLED SIGN INSTRUMENT OF ABDICATION YESTERDAY.
END NOFORN.

5. CITY IS STILL CALM; WORD OF "ARREST" MEMBERS OF IMPERIAL FAMILY IS SPREADING FAST.

WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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